

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/816,937

Applicant(s)

KONDO ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

James M. Hewitt

3679

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the reply filed 6/19/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
**JAMES M. HEWITT**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Larry Nixon on 7/19/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On page 7, line 23, "stad" has been deleted.

On page 10, line 14, the phrase --and an engagement wrench-- has been inserted after "13A".

On page 21, line 7, "stad" has been deleted.

On page 21, line 11, "stad" has been deleted.

On page 26, line 14, "stad" has been deleted.

On page 3 of the amendment to the specification filed 6/19/06, the phrase "Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17, through page 5, line 10, as follows:" has been replaced with the phrase --Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 10, through page 5, line 10, as follows:--.

On line 5 of the amended paragraph at page 5, lines 11 through 20, the phrase "holethat. that" has been replaced with the phrase --hole such that the--.

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On line 4 of the amended paragraph at page 27, lines 3 through 15, "BY" has been replaced with --By--.

On line 4 of the amended paragraph at page 27, lines 3 through 15, "100" has been deleted.

In the claims:

In claim 1, line 23, "into" has been replaced with --with--.

In claim 1, line 25, "into" has been replaced with --against and in--.

In claim 1, line 25, "directly or indirectly" has been deleted.

In claim 4, line 2, "high pressure" has been deleted.

Claim 6 has been rewritten into independent form as follows:

--Claim 6. A pipe joint structure comprising:

a vessel provided at an outer circumference with a first flat surface and at a circumferential wall with a through-hole having one end opened to the first flat surface and another end opened to an interior of the vessel;

a joint fitting member having an interior insertion hole diameter larger than the diameter of the through-hole and a first screw thread at an inner circumferential wall or an outer circumferential wall, the joint fitting member being bonded to the vessel so that the first flat surface is positioned radially inside the insertion hole and surrounds an entire outer periphery of the through-hole opened to the first flat surface;

a joint member provided with an insertion portion having (a) a second flat surface formed at an end, (b) a pipe connection portion having a conical pressure receiving

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seat formed at another end, and (c) a pipe mounting screw thread at an outer circumference, the insertion portion and the pipe connection portion being connected by an internal fluid passage with one end opened in the second flat surface and another end opened to the conical pressure receiving seat;

a distribution pipe provided at an end thereof with a conical portion; and

a mounting nut fastened into the pipe mounting screw thread so that the conical portion is pressed against the conical pressure receiving seat,

wherein the joint member is further provided at a position inside the inner circumferential wall of the insertion hole or a position outside the outer circumferential wall of the joint fitting member with a second screw thread screwed with the first screw thread whereby the insertion portion is inserted into the insertion hole so that the second flat surface communicates with the through-hole via a packing plate having a center packing through-hole constituting a part of the fluid passage, wherein the packing plate is disposed between the first and second flat surfaces so that the second flat surface is pressed against and in fluid tight contact with the packing plate which is in turn also pressed against and in fluid tight contact with the first flat surface.--

In claim 10, line 2, "stad" has been deleted.

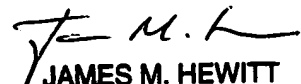
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMH  
7/20/06

  
JAMES M. HEWITT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER